

NO97 (F)  
MAHATHIR-SUHARTO

FROM FIZI AHMAD

8) (P)  
TAWAU, FEB. 16 (BERNAMA) — INDONESIA CITIZENS WORKING IN SABAH ARE NECESSARY TO FILL THE MANPOWER NEEDS OF THE STATE, ACTING PRIME MINISTER DATUK SERI DR. MAHATHIR MOHAMAD SAID HERE TODAY.

HE TOLD A CROWD OF ABOUT 30,000 PEOPLE, MOSTLY INDONESIANS, THAT THE FACT THAT MALAYSIA ALLOWED THEM TO WORK AND SETTLE DOWN IN TAWAU OR OTHER PARTS OF SABAH REFLECTED THE TRUE FRIENDSHIP BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES.

ALSO PRESENT WAS PRESIDENT SUHARTO OF INDONESIA WHO FLEW HERE THIS MORNING FOR TALKS WITH DATUK SERI DR. MAHATHIR.

THE ACTING PRIME MINISTER IS ON A FOUR-DAY OFFICIAL VISIT TO SABAH ACCOMPANYING HIM AT THE TALKS EARLIER WERE SABAH CHIEF MINISTER DATUK HARRIS SALLEH, HOME AFFAIRS MINISTER TAN SRI GHAZALI SHAFIE, INFORMATION MINISTER DATUK MOHAMED RAHMAT, MILITARY COMMANDER OF REGION TWO MEJ. JEN. ABDULLAH SHAMSUDIN AND DEPUTY INSPECTOR-GENERAL OF POLICE TAN SRI AMIN OSMAN.

PRESIDENT SUHARTO WAS ACCOMPANIED BY TWO MINISTERS AND TWO ASSISTANT MINISTERS.

—BERNAMA MORE 2107/AN

NO98 (F)  
MAHATHIR-SUHARTO 2 TAWAU

DATUK SERI DR. MAHATHIR SAID THAT POLITICAL STABILITY IN INDONESIA AND MALAYSIA INDICATED THAT ECONOMIC CO-OPERATION COULD BE PURSUED WITHOUT HINDRANCE.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT HOWEVER REQUIRED MANPOWER AND IN MALAYSIA SOME PLACES HAVE MORE MANPOWER THAN OTHERS, HE ADDED.

EVEN IF THE UNEMPLOYMENT RATE IN MALAYSIA WAS BETWEEN SIX AND SEVEN PER CENT, THERE WERE AREAS WHERE EVEN MORE LABOUR WAS NEEDED.

WITH A NEIGHBOURING COUNTRY WHOSE PEOPLE SPEAK THE SAME LANGUAGE, THE "CAPS" WERE FILLED BY INCOMING WORKERS, HE SAID.

DATUK SERI DR. MAHATHIR SAID THAT SINCE OPENING THE DOOR TO INDONESIAN WORKERS MANY HAD COME OVER AND HELPED TO DEVELOP SOME STATES IN MALAYSIA.

HE HOPED THAT THE ABILITY INDONESIANS TO ADAPT THEMSELVES TO MALAYSIAN SOCIETY.

HE HOPED THAT THE ABILITY OF INDONESIANS TO ADAPT THEMSELVES TO MALAYSIAN SOCIETY WOULD CONTINUE.

—BERNAMA MORE 2112/AN

MAHATHIR-SUHARTO 3 TAWAU

PRESIDENT SUHARTO IN HIS ADDRESS URGED ASEAN LEADERS TO CONTINUE EFFORTS TOWARDS ACHIEVING NATIONAL ASPIRATIONS.

HE TOLD THE INDONESIANS IN TAWAU, WHO TURNED OUT IN FORCE TO GREET HIM, THAT THEY SHOULD NOT BE LEFT BEHIND IN THE MOVE TOWARDS PROGRESS.

HE SAID THAT THEY WOULD NOT BE CREATING A CONFLICT IN NATIONAL ASPIRATIONS BY WORKING HARD FOR ECONOMIC UPLIFTMENT, REGARDLESS OF WHERE THEY WERE.

THE PRESIDENT ALSO TOLD THE CHEERING CROWD THAT THEY WERE ALLOWED TO WORK IN SABAH TO HELP OVERCOME THE LABOUR SHORTAGE IN THE STATE.

HE URGED THE INDONESIANS TO WORK HARD AND BE DISCIPLINED.

—BERNAMA 2121/AN